

U.S. Application No. 09/965,030  
Reply to Office Action dated April 5, 2006

PATENT  
450100-03503

### IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

#### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A data transfer apparatus for connecting a plurality of buses and for transmitting data through a first bus one of the plurality of buses to a second bus one of the plurality of buses, according to destination information related to the data, the data transfer apparatus being connected to the second bus through a second data transfer apparatus, the data transfer apparatus comprising:

transferring means for transferring the data from the data transfer apparatus to the second data transfer apparatus according to the destination information;

determining means for determining, according to the destination information, whether a node serving as a destination of the data is connected to the second bus one of the buses;

wherein, when the determining means for determining determines that the node is not connected, a data transmission source receives a predetermined error information signal;

wherein at least one packet of the data, transmitted to the node that is not connected, is processed as an error packet;

wherein the destination information comprises a node ID and a bus ID; and

wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN specification.

U.S. Application No. 09/965,030  
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PATENT  
450100-03503

2. (Previously Presented) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the means for determining determines, according to the destination  
information, whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is  
connected exists on a network, and  
wherein when the bus does not exist, transmits predetermined error information to  
the data transmission source.

3 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising:  
a plurality of buses connected through a data transfer apparatus, the data transfer  
apparatus for connecting the plurality of buses and for transmitting data transferred through its  
own bus ~~among the plurality of buses to another~~ a second bus among the plurality of buses  
according to destination information attached to the data,  
wherein the data transfer apparatus is connected to the second bus through a  
second data transfer apparatus, and the data transfer apparatus further comprises:  
transferring means for transferring the data from the data transfer  
apparatus to the second data transfer apparatus according to the destination information;  
determining means for determining, according to the destination  
information, whether a node serving as a destination of the data is connected to ~~a~~ the second bus  
~~one of the plurality of buses~~, and, when it determines that the node is not connected, a data  
transmission source receives a predetermined error information;

U.S. Application No. 09/965,030  
Reply to Office Action dated April 5, 2006

PATENT  
450100-03503

wherein at least one packet of the data, transmitted to the node that is not connected, is processed as an error packet;

wherein the destination information comprises a node ID and a bus ID;

wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN specification.

6. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 5, wherein the means for determining determines according to the destination information whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is connected exists on a network, and, when the bus does not exist, transmits predetermined error information to the data transmission source.

7 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A data transfer method for a data transfer apparatus for connecting buses and for transmitting data transferred through a first bus ~~among the buses~~ to a second bus ~~among the buses~~ according to destination information attached to the data, the data transfer apparatus being connected to the second bus through a second data transfer apparatus, the data transfer method comprising:

a transferring step of transferring the data from the data transfer apparatus to the second data transfer apparatus according to the destination information;

a first-determining step of determining, according to the destination information, whether the node serving as a destination of the data is connected to one of the buses; and

U.S. Application No. 09/965,030  
Reply to Office Action dated April 5, 2006

PATENT  
450100-03503

a second-transmitting step of, when it is determined that the node is not connected, transmitting predetermined error information to a data transmission source; wherein at least one packet of the data, transmitted to the node that is not connected, is processed as an error packet; wherein the destination information comprises a node ID and a bus ID; wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN specification.

10. (Currently Amended) The data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein, in the second-transmitting step, it is determined according to the destination information whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is connected exists on a network, and, when it is determined that the bus does not exist, predetermined error information is transmitted to the data transmission source.

11 - 12. (Canceled)